This Index is not widely accepted as it is subjective, does not provide use based risk and has other limitations. The study also does not report individual parameters used for the index in respect of which Indian water quality standards have been notified.

The other major findings of the World Bank sponsored study broadly relate to water shortages and flooding, urban outdoor air pollution, indoor air pollution, solid waste, land degradation and forest & biodiversity loss. Government is addressing these problems through the enforcement of various statutory provisions and through programmes implemented by different departments.

**Consideration of Disinvestment of NFL**

*79, SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will.the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consideration of disinvestment of National Fertilizer Ltd. has been put-off for two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) was Government able to secure bids for reserve price; and

(d) if not, steps being taken to improve the performance of NFL to attract better offers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) Reserve price of National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) has not been finalized.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

**Public Sector investment in agriculture production**

*80. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture production in the country is showing a downward trend since 1991 particularly after 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Public Sector investment in agriculture declined considerably during this period;

(d) if so, the year-wise details of Public Sector investment in agriculture during the years 1991 -2002;

(e) the comparative figures of investment during the vears 1980-90;

(f) whether the low investment by Public Sector negatively affect the growth and competitiveness of this sector; and

(g) the reasons of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The total value of output in Agriculture including Animal Husbandry and Dairying during the years, 1990-91 to 2001-02 at 1993-94 prices as compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation is given in Statement-1 *{See* below). Though there were fluctuations in agricultural production in some years due to adverse weather conditions, it is seen from Annexure-I that there has been no declining trend in value of output during the above mentioned period.

(c) to (e) The Public Sector investment in Agriculture measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) during the years from 1981-82 to 2001-02 at 1993-94 prices is shown in "Statement-ll (See below).

(f) and (g) Though there was a declining trend in public investment during 1995-96 to 1998-99 the trend was reversed in 1999-2000. Though the public sector GCF in Agriculture declined, there was no corresponding decline in the agriculture production as discernable from the figures of value of output given in Annexure-I. However, growth and competitiveness of Indian agriculture would improve further though increase in production and productivity if public investment is stepped up for further augmenting irrigation facilities and developing rural infrastructure.

Government of India have been implementing a number of schemes/ programmes for improving irrigation facilities and rural infrastructure. These include. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for expeditious completion of ongoing major & medium irrigation projects; Drought Prone Area Programme; Desert Development Programme; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas; Integrated Wasteland

Development Programme; Rural Infrastructure Development Fund established in NABARD to provide financial assistance to State Governments to augment investments in irrigation, rural roads and bridges, market yards/godowns, inland waterways etc. Besides, with a view to pass on the benefit of declining interest rates to agriculture sector, public sector banks have reduced their lending rates for agriculture to a maximum 9 per cent per annum on crop loans upto a ceiling of Rs.50,000.

***Statement-I***

*Value of Output in Agriculture including Animal Husbandry and Dairying*

At 1993-94 prices

| Year | Value of output (Rs.Crore) |
|---|---|
| 1990-91 | 251885 |
| 1991-92 | 249050 |
| 1992-93 | 261901 |
| 1993-94 | 271839 |
| 1994-95 | 284975 |
| 1995-96 | 284273 |
| 1996-97 | 307393 |
| 1997-98 | 302399 |
| 1998-99 | 323017 |
| 1999-00 | 324298 |
| 2000-01 | 320370 |
| 2001-02 | 336900 |

***Statement-It***

*Public Sector Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in Agriculture including Animal Husbandry and Dairying*

| | At 1993-94 prices Public Sector |
|---|---|
| Year | GCF (Rs.Crore) |
| 1980-81 | 6935 |
| 1981-82 | 6765 |
| 1982-83 | 6674 |
| 1983-84 | 6607 |
| 1984-85 | 6390 |
| 1985-86 | 5792 |
| 1986-87 | 5407 |
| 1987-88 | 5600 |
| 1988-89 | 5240 |
| 1989-90 | 4433 |
| 1990-91 | 4395 |
| 1991-92 | 3871 |
| 1992-93 | 4076 |
| 1993-94 | 4467 |
| 1994-95 | 4947 |
| 1995-96 | 4849 |
| 1996-97 | 4668 |
| 1997-98 | 3979 |
| 1998-99 | 3870 |
| 1999-00 | 4222 |
| 2000-01 | 3919 |
| 2001-02 | 4794 |